

Filed for intro on 05/24/95  
House Bill \_\_\_\_\_  
By \_\_\_\_\_

Senate No. SJR0277  
By Haynes

A RESOLUTION to honor Chief of Police Robert E. Kirchner, Jr.,  
and the Metropolitan Nashville Police  
Department upon receiving international  
accreditation from the Commission on  
Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies.

WHEREAS, as a result of five years of careful planning, two years of hard work by a  
dedicated team of professionals, and the cooperation of over 1,500 employees, the Metropolitan  
Nashville Police Department achieved the enviable ranking of becoming an accredited law  
enforcement agency on July 30, 1994, thus joining an elite international group of only 304 such  
agencies who are similarly recognized for their professional excellence; and

WHEREAS, accreditation demonstrates the commitment of the law enforcement agency  
to professionalism in terms of adherence to a body of recognized professional standards and  
allowing an "outside" entity to verify compliance, and assures the community that its law  
enforcement agency is committed to the provision of services of the highest quality and that its  
policies and procedures are effective and responsive on the one hand, and fair and equitable on  
the other; and

WHEREAS, accreditation also enhances community understanding of the law  
enforcement agency's role as well as its goals and objectives, and commits the agency to a

broad range of programs of direct benefit to the community, as well as to programs to cope with man-made or natural disasters; and

WHEREAS, just as an accredited hospital or university warrants a sense of assurance and trust from the people it serves, Nashvillians can also be confident that the police department has met a multitude of stringent guidelines which are applied on a daily basis; and

WHEREAS, the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) has developed over 900 standards governing every aspect of law enforcement policies, procedures and operations; these standards are designed to facilitate crime prevention and control, improve the delivery of law enforcement services and increase cooperation and coordination with other law enforcement agencies; and

WHEREAS, over the last several years, the Metropolitan Nashville Police Department has reevaluated, restructured, and reorganized to comply with CALEA standards; the changes came in the shape of new policies, programs, and the renovation of buildings; not only did the department do the necessary work, but when possible, went the extra, non-mandatory mile to make the department exemplary; and

WHEREAS, the final test came in May, when CALEA assessors traveled to Nashville to perform an on-site assessment of the police department; for five days, assessment team members scrutinized and inspected every aspect of the department's operations, procedures, equipment, and listened to the public's opinions regarding the work of the department through phone calls and a public hearing; and

WHEREAS, even though the department passed with flying colors, the accreditation process is far from over; in five years, the agency will be reevaluated to ensure a continuing commitment to existing and newly developed standards; and

WHEREAS, the impact of accreditation on the citizens of Nashville is considerable: by requiring a constant effort to improve law enforcement programs and procedures, accreditation benefits extend to virtually every aspect of the lives of Nashvillians, including schools, families, the justice system, and even the city's future; and

WHEREAS, 1994 was one of the most progressive years in the history of the Metropolitan Nashville Police Department in many other respects as well; and

WHEREAS, 1994 was also a year for new programs and strategies, among them the formation of the department's Domestic Violence Division and School Services Division; and

WHEREAS, the primary mission of the Domestic Violence Division is to reduce homicides, assaults, spousal rapes, domestic hostage situations, stalkings and other crimes through quality investigations; and

WHEREAS, the School Services Division was formed last summer for the purpose of deterring criminal activity in Nashville's public high schools and middle schools by placing uniformed officers in the hallways. While the placement of officers in the public school system is, in a way, a sad commentary on life in the 1990s, the program appears to be achieving the desired results; and

WHEREAS, on the training front, the department continues to emphasize diversity awareness. All members of the department, both sworn and civilian, attended diversity awareness classes in 1994, as they did in 1993; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of their diversity training, the police department was honored to receive the Multicultural and Diversity Award presented on December 16, 1993, by the Nashville chapter of Clergy and Laity Concerned; and

WHEREAS, diversity classes in 1994 were directed by the National Conference, formerly the National Conference of Christians and Jews; and

WHEREAS, as part of the training, representatives from various ethnic and community groups came to the academy for panel discussions with members of the department; both sides benefited from the discussions and, in many cases, the framework has been laid for continued meaningful dialogue with those community groups; and

WHEREAS, Chief Robert E. Kirchner, Jr., and the officers of the Metropolitan Nashville Police Department are to be greatly commended for their continuing efforts to keep Nashville a safe and great place to live; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we hereby honor Chief Robert E. Kirchner, Jr., and the Metropolitan Nashville Police Department upon receiving international accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc., a highly prized recognition of law enforcement excellence that speaks volumes about the department's ongoing commitment to professionalism and proficient service to the citizens of Metropolitan Nashville - Davidson County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.

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